

Message Text

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SUBJ: COMMENTS IN THAI PARLIAMENT ON U.S. PRESENCE

REF: BANGKOK 7849

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE
MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON MAY 1 HELD AN INTERPELLATION ON THE SITUATION IN
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. DURING THE DEBATE A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES
SPOKE ON THE ISSUE OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN
THAILAND. OPPOSITION QUESTIONS PLACED THE RTG LEADERSHIP IN
A DEFENSIVE POSITION AND LED TO FOREICK
AMNISTER CHATCHAI
CHUNHAWAN'S PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A U.S. WITHDRAWAL OF
FORCES BEGINNING IN JUNE 1975. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT
PRAMOT CONFIRMED AT THAT TIME THAT THE RTG PLANS TO RECOGNIZE
NORTH KOREA AND THE PRC. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 1 A MOTION FOR AN URGENT DEBATE ON THE INDOCHINA
SITUATION WAS MADE BY SOCIAL JUSTICE MP AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SATHAP SIRIKHAN. A THREE HOUR DISCUSSION
WAS HELD WITH A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF
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A MODIFICATION OF THAILAND'S TRADITIONAL ANTI-COMMUNIST

FOREIGN POLICY.

2. THE LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT, KLAEO NORAPATI, IS REPORTED AS URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO "KICK" THE AMERICANS OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO PREVENT THE DISUNITY AS HAS OCCURRED IN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. ANOTHER OPPOSITIONIST, SURIN MATSADIT OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY, STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS ABANDONING ITS FRIENDS, ADDING THAT IT IS NOW TIME FOR THAILAND TO BE SELF-RELIANT. HE STATED THAT THE U.S. BASES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THAILAND WITHIN THREE MONTHS SINCE THEY CANNOT HELP PROTECT THE HOST COUNTRY.

3. THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY, SAWAT KHAMPRAKOP, CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THAILAND AND A POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE AND NEUTRALITY.

4. A PLEA FOR GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LOCAL INSURGENTS CAME FROM THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE NEW FORCE PARTY, SOMWANG SICHAI HE ALSO SAID THAT IF THE RTG IS TO MAKE DIPLOMATIC APPROACHES TO SOLVE FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS THE GOVERNMENT MUST FORMULATE A MORE PRECISE FOREIGN POLICY.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THESE REMARKS THE FOREIGN MINISTER PREMATURELY ANNOUNCED THAT LARGE -SCALE U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS WILL BEGIN IN JUNE. AT THE CLOSE OF THE INTERPELLATION THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THAILAND WILL BEFRIEND ITS ENEMIES IN ORDER TO TURN ENEMIES INTO FRIENDS. HE ADDED THAT THE RTG WILL SOON BEFRIEND NORTH KOREA AND THE PRC BY EXTENDING RECOGNITION. MASTERS

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